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'DEFENCES SAVED US'

Banbury's £14m flood scheme 'did exactly what it said on the tin'

LEFT: The flood defences in Banbury

BELOW: Local councillor Kieron Mallon

By Sam McGregor

BANBURY was saved from major flooding thanks to a £14m man-made bund, according to a councillor.

The bund officially opened in 2011 but in the past few weeks has been put to the test after record-breaking rainfall.

The flood-alleviation scheme effectively took Banbury town centre out of a flood risk zone after it experienced severe flooding twice in less than ten years.

And in the recent stormy wet weather Banbury town centre remained above the water line thanks to a £14m man-made bund on land between the M40 and Daventry Road.

Town, district and county councillor Kieron Mallon said it was money well spent.

He said: "I think the whole of Banbury has been saved the heartache that other parts of the country have felt.

"Banbury has definitely been saved by the bund and flood-alleviation scheme.

"Cherwell District Council put in £2m and that triggered, and brought in, more funding from the Environment Agency, businesses and others.

"In my view, this was a good use of local public money to bring in national public money.

"With the amount of water we have had over last fortnight, we would have previously expected central Banbury – The Mill, Spiceball and railway stations and Bridge Street – to be under water, and the town's businesses to be affected by it.

"This scheme did exactly what it said on the tin. It has alleviated Banbury from major flooding.

"It will never stop the occasional major flood. But in this instance, it has saved the townspeople of Banbury and businesses a lot in inconvenience."

Funding for the bund came from Cherwell District Council, the Environment Agency, Network Rail and businesses, including Prodrive.

The anti-flood scheme has protected 441 residential and 73 commercial properties, including Banbury Railway Station and Grimsbury Water Treatment Works.

Previously, in less than a ten-year gap, Banbury town centre was severely flooded twice – once in 1998, and again in 2007, after a day of torrential rain across the county.

During the July 2007 floods, the River Cherwell and canal merged into one waterway and the Spiceball sports centre, the Mill Arts Centre, railway station and the bus station were swamped with up to four feet of water.

While in 1998, homes in Grimsbury were under three foot of water.

The bund was the second phase of flood alleviation work. In 2004, Moorfields Brook Pumping Station opened to help protect Grimsbury residents who had been flooded in 1998.

The flood alleviation has also freed up flood-prone land in the town centre for redevelopment, including the planned Castle Quay extension.

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InBRIEF

32-year-old in child sex case

A MAN who appeared at Oxford Crown Court pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a girl under 16. Steven Allport, of Eden Way, Bicester, admitted one count of sexual activity with a female child under 16 on August 8, 2012. The 32-year-old also pleaded guilty to one count of causing or inciting a child under 16 to engage in sexual activity between March 20, 2012, and August 9, 2012. He was released on bail and will be sentenced on March 28 this year.

Set for demolition

DEMOLITION is set to start at the former Bicester care home St Edburg's and the social services offices in Old Place Yard, to make way for new homes. Work is due to be completed in June. A second archaeological dig will then take place at the site, which is part of an old Priory. Cherwell District Council's plans for new homes on the site have yet to be finalised.

Hit-and-run plea

A DRIVER failed to stop after colliding with a car and causing extensive damage. Police say a van or a lorry collided with a dark Ford Kuga, driven by a 33-year-old woman, along the A4095 from Kirtlington towards Chesterton at 8.40am on Tuesday, February 4. The woman suffered injuries but did not go to hospital. Call police on 101.

Robberies took place day after escaping from mental unit

'Danger' criminal gets eight years in prison

A "DANGEROUS" criminal who carried out two robberies the day after escaping from a mental health unit grinned as he was jailed for eight years.

Lewis Moiloa, of Bartsia Road, Bicester, absconded from the Evenlode unit at the Littlemore Mental Health Hospital on April 5 last year.

The following day he carried out two violent robberies and an attempted robbery as part of a gang, punching his victims and taking their mobile phones.

The 20-year-old was given an extended eight-year prison sentence as a judge at Oxford Crown Court branded him a dangerous offender whose crimes involved "violence for the sake of it".

Naomi Perry, prosecuting, told Judge Mary Jane Mowat that Moiloa already had a long criminal record, including other robberies and a total of 20 assaults.

She said all three of his recent offences took place in Bicester on the evening of April 6, when the victims were approached by a group of young men who threatened, punched and kicked them until they handed over their mobile phones.

By Joe Nimmo

Judge Mowat said the defendant had been sent to the Evenlode unit, which deals with adults with learning difficulties who have committed crimes, in 2011 after he admitted two earlier robberies.

But Judge Mowat said while at the unit Moiloa assaulted staff – punching a nurse in the face when he was not allowed to go outside for a cigarette.

Quoting his pre-sentence report she said he presented "a high risk of serious harm to the public, given the nature and seriousness of your offending".

Judge Mowat said she took into account that Moiloa had had a "difficult start in life" coming to the UK from Botswana, witnessing domestic violence at a young age and struggling with undiagnosed learning difficulties as school.

But she told him: "I take the view that you are a dangerous offender, sadly even at the age of 20."

'Dangerous' Lewis Moiloa, who has been jailed for eight years

Coroner's accident ruling after woman's rare allergic reaction

A WOMAN may have died from a one-in-a-hundred allergic reaction during a hip operation.

Dorothy Allan, 75, underwent the procedure to fix her broken femur at Horton General Hospital, Banbury, on August 29.

An inquest at Oxford Coroner's Court heard how Mrs Allan, who lived with her husband, Ian, in Horton View, was given a general anaesthetic for the "standard" procedure, but never woke up.

Pathologist Dr Lucie Winter, of Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital, said she found traces of a cement used to repair the broken bone in Mrs Allan's lungs. She said: "It is possible this was an allergic reaction."

Dr Ahmed Abdelaal, who performed the hip operation, told the inquest that only one per cent of people had an allergic reaction to the cement, and 48 in 10,000 died from that reaction.

Assistant coroner Nicholas Graham said the medical cause of death had been cardiac arrest following cement implantation.

He ruled Mrs Allan's death was accidental.

Plans are approved for shopping centre

Boost for Castle Quay

PLANS to extend Banbury's Castle Quay shopping centre have been approved by councillors.

Cherwell District Council's planning committee passed the plan for development around the Oxford Canal.

It will include a supermarket, cinema, restaurants and hotel, though concerns were raised that it will pull trade from other parts of the town.

Applicant Scottish Widows Investment Partnership said: "This is a significant and positive step to help rejuvenate Banbury town centre, which we believe will benefit other retailers, as well as residents in the town and surrounding villages."

Further permission will be needed on detailed designs.

InBRIEF

Exhibition for housing scheme

■ AN exhibition explaining a housing plan for Twyford Road, Adderbury, will be staged on Thursday, February 27. Adderbury Parish Council will host the event from 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm at the Methodist Hall, Chapel Lane. Organisations, including the GreenSquare Group housing association and Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership, want to build 13 affordable and three open-market homes for the site. It is proposed as a "rural exception site", meaning it would fall outside normal planning policy to meet the need for homes for villagers. All the affordable units would be for villagers only, while the open-market homes could be bought by anyone.

Awards deadline

■ YOUNG people in the county will be honoured at the fifth annual Oxfordshire Youth Awards. There is still time to nominate those aged 11 to 19 in seven categories – including Arts Superstar, Sports Achievement, Community Champion, Pride of Oxfordshire, Inspirational Entrepreneur, Young Einstein of the Year, and Youth Project of the Year. Nominations close on Monday. The awards, run by the Oxfordshire Association for Young People, will be held on Monday, March 17, at the Oxford New Theatre. To find out more visit oayp.org.uk/index.php/news-article/nominations-now-open

Local Plan set to go before public inquiry

A PLANNING inspector has been appointed to oversee a public inquiry into Cherwell District Council's Local Plan.

The Local Plan – a policy document that maps out where 16,750 homes across the district would be allowed to be built up to 2031 – was officially submitted to the Government on January 31.

It had earlier been approved by councillors before undergoing final legal checks.

Cherwell District Council's planning chief, Michael Gibbard, said: "Since being approved by councillors in the autumn, all 76,000 pages associated with the proposed Local Plan have had to undergo final checks and legal scrutiny, as required by the Government.

"None of this has changed the content of the plan, but it has ensured it is ready for formal examination."

Cherwell's Michael Gibbard

The plan has allocated 5,954 homes in Banbury, Bicester will see 6,894 and 3,902 homes will be built in villages across the district.

Nigel Payne will oversee the two-week inquiry later this year.

A date for the inquiry has yet to be set, but the council said it hoped to adopt the plan by next winter.

To view the plan, go to cherwell.gov.uk/localplanexamination

Rubbish by the bus load

RUBBISH, equivalent to the weight of three double-decker buses, was cleared from the streets of Bretch Hill in just five days.

Cherwell District Council's green team spent 230 man hours tidying up the estate and taking away more than 22 tonnes of rubbish at the end of last month. Nigel Morris, Cherwell's "clean and green" chief, said: "When thinking about the weight of three double-decker buses, the image is quite shocking."

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Rural schools tell of fear of falling rolls and reduced budgets following decision

Free buses to end for many school pupils

RURAL schools claim they will lose hundreds of pupils and millions of pounds after county councillors voted to end free buses for many children.

Last week, after a day of discussions, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet unanimously voted to scrap free transport for schoolchildren if their parents choose not to send them to their nearest school.

The cabinet said it would save £2m a year.

Headteachers and governors from across the county addressed cabinet members in a two-hour discussion in which they raised serious concerns over the plans.

The schools which believe they will be affected the most are Bloxham's Warriner School and Burford School.

Both believe they will lose hundreds of pupils, and money, under the plans over the coming years.

Burford School headteacher Kathy Haig said: "We will lose up

By Sophie Scott

to 500 students over five years in the worst-case scenario and that would be a drop of £2.1m from the school budget. It would affect our priorities over the next five years."

Pupil Chloe Bridge, 12, said she would have to leave Burford School by the time she starts her GCSEs if the proposals were passed and would have to walk in the dark in the winter to get to Carterton Community College.

"I would have to leave my friends at Burford and walk to Carterton Community College. That would be dangerous."

These fears were echoed by Warriner School headteacher Annabel Kay, whose catchment is made up of many village primary schools.

County councillor George Reynolds said: "If the students don't get in the car and go to Warriner because they can't get free transport, there could be 200 pupils going to different schools. The school could lose two or three villages from school rolls, which is really devastating."

More than 2,500 people responded to the council's consultation, with a clear majority against the plans.

But Carterton Community College said it was pleased with the proposals, saying many pupils are "bussed past" the school to go to another secondary and it had historically lost out.

Headteacher Niall McWilliams said: "I appreciate the difficult decision and that it's causing lots of debate. We should put some of this negative energy into positively improving every single school in Oxfordshire. I truly believe education is the biggest measure of social justice."

Councillor Lynda Atkins raised concerns about the impact of the proposals on RAF Benson, but was told by council officers the base would be looked at separately.

Earlier in the day, the cross-party education scrutiny committee met and voted in favour of the plans.

Sue Moon, the co-ordinator of campaign group Oxon Schools Bus Action Group, said it was disappointed by the decision but was taking legal advice about a potential judicial review.

Leader of the council Ian Hudspeth warned the protest group about taking such action.

He said: "Any judicial review will cost the taxpayer money and the group needs to remember a judicial review is about the consultation process and not the outcome."

Sue Moon, of the Oxon Schools Bus Action Group, who is taking legal advice over launching a judicial review

The proposals

- Free transport is provided to the nearest school in Oxfordshire only
- In the case of "split" villages (where pupils are closer to different schools), if 20 per cent of pupils will have to attend a different school under the plan, free transport will be provided to the catchment school for all addresses
- The change will be introduced in phases from September 2015
- Fares for post-16 travel will be increased by ten per cent in September, and then by five per cent for the following five years from September 2015

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Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Inner Wheel keep little Lily rolling

Fundraising helps pay for insurance

A LITTLE girl who is whizzing around on her super new wheelchair is now fully insured, thanks to a group of women from Banbury's Inner Wheel.

Last March, Lily Ilott's parents launched a £17,000 fundraising appeal to buy a new motorised wheelchair to replace her worn-out chair.

The seven-year-old has type two spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic condition which means she cannot bear weight and is confined to a wheelchair.

Just before Christmas Lily, who lives with mum Jo, dad Matthew and younger sister Gracie, two, took possession of her new chair, which she drives herself.

It has been adapted to fit her, has a specially-moulded seat, lights, is easy to turn and put away.

By Sam McGregor

Now members of Banbury Inner Wheel have donated £500, which will pay for insurance and public liability cover for Lily's new chair.

The Inner Wheel group raised the cash by stuffing a member's Mini with yellow and blue balloons, parking it at Castle Quay shopping centre, and asking people to guess how many were in the car.

The event came as the national women's club celebrated its 90th year.

Chairman Maureen Carney said: "Members of Banbury Inner Wheel are proud to support the association's anniversary by making a donation which will go towards giving Lily the mobility she deserves both at home and at school."

Mr Ilott, 43, of Worton Road, Middle Barton, said insurance for the chair was a necessity and had cost about £550.

He said: "We would be silly not to insure a wheelchair that cost £18,000. Unfortunately we live in an age where you have to prepare for all eventualities."

Mr Ilott said: "Lily has as normal a school life as you can expect. She whizzes around the playground.

"She is in her chair pretty much the whole day."

The family raised the cash to pay for the new chair from a string of fundraising events, private donations, contributions from local charities and a £2,700 grant from the health authority.

The new chair will last Lily, a Middle Barton School pupil, at least five years.

Women from Banbury's Inner Wheel – Maureen Carney, Helen Morris, Liz Rodrick, Judy May, Linda Clarke and Annie Phillips – with little Lily Ilott OX65041

InBRIEF

Woman denies attack charge

AN 18-year-old woman has appeared at Oxford Crown Court and denied inflicting grievous bodily harm. Jade Collison, of Juniper Close, Banbury, pleaded not guilty to one count of the offence on Wednesday of last week. She is due to appear again at the Crown court for a five-day trial on July 7 and was released on bail.

Fundraising date

AN event is to be staged to raise cash for the youth homeless charity BYHP. The Katherine Allen bridal store, in Marlborough Road, Banbury, will hold a Purely Platinum Banbury Businesses in the Community Fashion Show at Bo Peep Farm, Adderbury, on Saturday February 22, at 7pm. For tickets call Nick on 01869 338085.

Online advice

THE British Heart Foundation has opened a new online service, which it says will help the 450,000 women with heart disease in the South East. The Women's Room is an online hub featuring the stories of women living with heart disease, practical information to help them adjust to life with a heart condition, and information and advice for those trying to keep their hearts healthy. See bhf.org.uk/women

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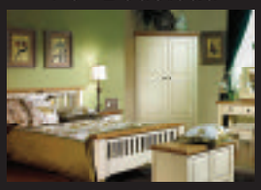

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Freedom of Information commissioner's decision is overruled

Ministers block release of HS2 report

The type of train that could be using the HS2 line

MINISTERS have blocked the release of a report into the controversial HS2 rail project, over-ruling a decision by the freedom of information watchdog, which said it should be disclosed.

Campaigners, who are fighting the construction of the high-speed line, which would run through parts of North Oxfordshire, are demanding the publication of a review of the £42bn scheme drawn up in 2011 for the Major Projects Authority (MPA).

But Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said he was taking the "exceptional" step of vetoing the Information Commissioner's ruling that the project assessment review should be released, arguing that there was a "strong public interest against disclosure".

Announcing his decision in a statement to MPs, Mr McLoughlin said: "The Major Projects Review was conducted to inform on the development of the HS2 project. The public interest in ensuring that projects of this scale, importance

By Alex Wynick

and cost are properly controlled and overseen is very high indeed.

"The assurance of confidentiality is important in the conduct of the review. In my view, there is nothing in the nature or content of this particular report which outweighs that strong public interest against disclosure."

The MPA has carried out reviews of dozens of high-value Government schemes to assess the effectiveness with which they can be delivered. None of them are intended for publication.

In 2013, the authority released a traffic-light rating for each of the schemes, which gave HS2 an "amber/red" assessment, meaning the project had significant issues which would need to be addressed before work could go ahead.

A Government spokesman said: "This Government is proud to lead the world on transparency. Last year we published the first-ever Major Projects Authority report, which included information on all major projects. Hard-working people rightly expect the Government to keep tight control over how their taxes are spent on major projects and that's just what the Government's MPA is working with departments to do.

"The Major Projects Authority will not be truly effective if officials fear that their frank advice to ministers could be disclosed."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said: "I am not entirely clear what has been the exact status of this report, but I have no doubt that members of the bill committee will want to see as much as is relevant for their work."

Richard Houghton of the HS2 Action Alliance, which is opposing the new rail link, said: "We obviously have not had access to the MPA report into HS2 although, as with everything of this nature, there are leaks that lead us to believe the report is damning and could see heads rolling in both the Department for Transport and other sections of government."

InBRIEF

Bell to be Rotary guest

FORMER BBC war reporter Martin Bell will be the guest speaker at *An Evening With ...* event organised by The Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell. Mr Bell, now an author and British UNICEF Ambassador, was formally an Independent MP. The event takes place at The Whately Hall Hotel, Banbury, on Friday, March 21. The black tie event includes a three-course dinner. Tickets are from £35. For more information view banburycherwellrotary.org.uk

Seasonal cash

MORE than £2,000 is on its way to good causes thanks to Christmas celebrations at Castle Quay shopping centre. An animated festive display brought in £640, while a Santa's Grotto run by Banbury Cross Round Table raised £1,400. The cash will go to 32 local charities and not-for-profit groups supported by the Round Table. Ian Swaysland said: "Once again we have been overwhelmed by the support from Castle Quay and its shoppers and would like to say a huge thank you to them all."

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Man, 20, denies sexual grooming

By Banbury reporter

A TWENTY-year-old man told a 13-year-old girl to "wear something sexy" before they met in Banbury, Oxford Crown Court heard.

Luke Southam denies meeting a child following sexual grooming on March 11 last year.

Prosecutor Graham Smith told a jury that Southam, of Cornish Road, Chipping Norton, met the girl at Banbury railway station after talking to her on *Facebook*.

The lawyer said Southam had asked the girl to "bring something sexy to change into or wear something sexy for him".

He said: "The prosecution say the defendant's intention at that meeting, or thereafter, was to engage in some form of sexual activity with the 13-year-old girl."

The case continues.

InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates' courts around the county

JAMES WELLS, 43, of no fixed address, admitted failing to notify Cherwell District Council of a change in circumstances he knew would affect his entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit in Banbury between August 13, 2012, and November 4, 2012. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay a £15 victims' surcharge and £35 costs.

ANTON BLISZKO, 38, of Barley Hill, Culworth, convicted of exceeding the 30mph speed limit in Bicester Road, Middleton Stoney, on June 28. Fined £100 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £65 costs. Given three points on driving licence.

BILLY BISTON, 19, of St Mongas, Horsefair, Chipping Norton, admitted driving without due care and attention, without a licence, without insurance, and failing to stop after an accident where damage was caused to another vehicle on Hailey Crescent, Chipping Norton, on August 31. Fined a total of £255 and ordered to pay £300 compensation, a £20 victims' surcharge and £40 costs. Licence endorsed with nine points.

DANIEL BURGESS, 26, of Azalea Walk, Banbury, admitted possessing a kitchen knife in a public place in Longelandes Way, Banbury, on January 12. Fined £110 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

DAVID HOLLAND, 44, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted causing criminal damage to a window in Bretch Hill on December 14. Also convicted of stealing four medical-grade oxygen cylinders during a non-domestic burglary in West

Bar Street, Banbury, on October 12. Community order made with 240-hour unpaid work requirement. Told to pay £10 compensation, an £80 victims' surcharge and £435 costs.

DANIEL HANWELL, 20, of Marlborough Place, Banbury, admitted stealing two bread rolls and bottle of Disaronno worth £15.80 from Tesco in Bicester on November 13. Told to pay £25 costs to the Crown Prosecution Service.

RAY RIGBY, 27, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted possessing 8g of cocaine, a Class-A drug, and 4g of cannabis, a Class-B drug, in Bloxham on December 6. Fined £115 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £40 costs.

PETER MURPHY, 32, of Manor Road, Adderbury, admitted drink-driving on the A4260 in Adderbury on January 11. Had 117mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Given a 24-month driving ban and told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

PHILLIP BARKER, 57, of Waverley Close, Kings Sutton, admitted causing criminal damage worth £250 to a vehicle wing mirror in George Street, Banbury, on March 4. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £75 compensation and a £15 victims' surcharge.

MARTIN PREEDY, 46, of Masefield Road, Banbury, admitted breaching the requirements of a suspended sentence made on November 4 for three counts of animal cruelty by not carrying out unpaid work as instructed on November 12. Suspended sentence for eight-weeks custody suspended for 13 months made more onerous by adding one month for the breach.

TAHIR ALI, 38, of Lidsey Road, Banbury, admitted possessing 34g of cannabis, a Class-B drug, in Banbury on December 5. Fined £45 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

LEE CHRISTIE, 40, of Crab Tree Close, Bloxham, admitted speeding in Banbury Road, Oxford, on August 1 at a speed exceeding the 30mph speed limit. Fined £60 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge. Given four points on driving licence.

NADEEM HUSSAIN, 34, of Reid Close, Banbury, convicted of using a mobile phone while driving in George Street, Banbury, on August 1. Fined £200 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

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Society tunes up for the classic *Oliver!*

By Arts Writer

BANBURYSHIRE audiences shouldn't miss the opportunity to enjoy Lionel Bart's multi-award-winning masterpiece, *Oliver!* when Banbury Operatic Society stages this show from Tuesday to Saturday at Wykham Theatre, Banbury Academy.

Based upon the children's novel by Charles Dickens, *Oliver!* follows the story of an orphan who runs away from a workhouse and falls in with a gang of boys who are trained to be pickpockets by gang leader, Fagin.

The play is famed for its well-known songs such as *Food Glorious Food, Consider Yourself, Oom-Pah-Pah* and *As Long As He Needs Me*.

Performed for the first time by BOS, the show is directed by Steve Hatt, who besides making his directorial debut for the society, has also designed a stunning set.

Musical direction is provided by Nick Perry, and there are some eye-catching and exuberant dance routines from choreographer Sharon Green.

Oliver is played by Anna Hassall and Zara Walton and the Artful Dodger is played by Emma Peters and Josh Berrie.

Dave Smith returns to BOS to play the roguish Fagin, while Ruth Draper makes her first appearance for the society as Nancy.

Jonathan Rubery is her villainous lover, Bill Sykes, accompanied by Ozzy Kennedy, making his debut as Bullseye.

Society chairman Sally-Anne Watts said: "*Oliver!* is an extremely popular show that has something for everyone.

"The music is truly memorable and everyone identifies with the plot.

"We are delighted to have such a talented cast, including more than 20 children who will be appearing on stage with us."

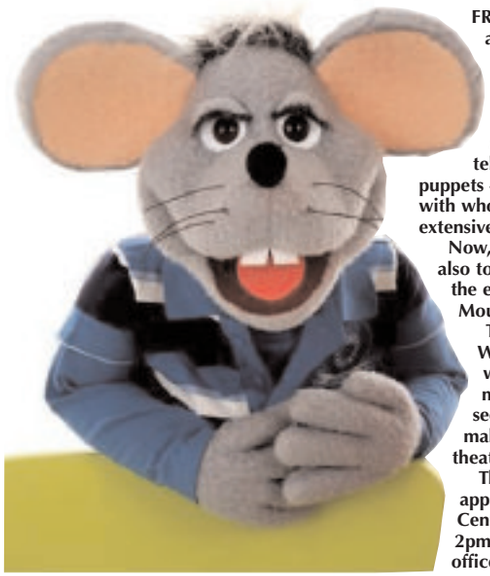
Performances start at 7.30pm each night and there is a matinee at 2pm on Saturday, February 22.

Tickets (£12/£10) are now on sale online at www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk or can be bought from Anker & Partner Estate Agents, High Street, Banbury.

ABOVE: Jonathan Rubery, who plays the villainous Bill Sykes, accompanied by Ozzy Kennedy, making his debut as 'Bullseye'

LEFT: The boys and girls who will be appearing in the Banbury Operatic Society production of *Oliver!*

Debut for funny Theo



FROM the writer of ITV's *Sooty* and *Basil Brush* comes a brand new, hilarious and loveable creation – Theo The Mouse.

Wink Taylor has long been associated with two of television's most famous puppets – Sooty and Basil Brush – with whom he tours and films extensively.

Now, in a fun-filled show, he is also touring with his own creation, the equally charismatic Theo The Mouse.

Theo and his best friend, Wendy, captivate audiences with their comedy, songs and magic. They perform a must-see family show which is making Theo a firm favourite in theatres around the country.

Theo The Mouse will next be appearing at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on Saturday at 2pm. For tickets call the box office on 01295 279002.

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InBRIEF

Hospital queues: Target missed again

■ A KEY A&E waiting time target was again missed at county hospitals in the week ending Sunday, January 26, latest figures show.

Some 86.5 per cent of patients were discharged, admitted or transferred within four hours of arrival at Banbury's Horton and Oxford's John Radcliffe general hospitals.

This means of the 2,134 who attended, 289 waited more than four hours.

The target is for at least 95 per cent to be dealt with within four hours.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust – which runs the hospitals – has only hit the target twice since October 20.

Final chance for say

■ **PEOPLE only have until next Monday to have their say on proposals to reduce the number of councillors representing Cherwell District Council from 50 to 48.**

It comes after the Local Government Boundary Commission for England carried out a review.

For more information view lgbce.org.uk

Agent's new arrival

■ PROPERTY agency and marketing graduate Benjie Nesbitt has joined estate agent firm Savills in its Banbury rural team.

He grew up in Northamptonshire, just across the border, and went to the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

His role will see him involved in the management of farms and estates, as well as the sale of land and farms across central England.

■ Former Cold War air base wants extension to filming days

Bid to host more Holywood movies

AFTER movie star Brad Pitt caused a stir among fans when he filmed movie scenes in North Oxfordshire, the county could see more A-listers paying a visit.

Mr Pitt was in the county twice in 2011 to film scenes for zombie movie *World War Z* at the former US Air Force base at Upper Heyford.

Now the Dorchester Group, which owns the base, wants to increase the number of days each year filming can take place at the flying field area of the site.

Currently, film and television production can only be carried out for 28 days a year.

Among the movies previously filmed at the former Cold War base are *Octopussy, Children of Men, Tooth Fairies, Fast and Furious 6* and *World War Z*.

By Sam McGregor

Dorchester says the site's unique setting "has drawn the imagination of production teams".

A report by Dorchester's agent for Cherwell District Council, did not say how many extra filming days were requested.

It said: "The flying field has to date been used for occasional television and film production alongside and without conflict with the commercial occupiers of the flying field."

It said there would not be a big increase in traffic as staff and actors would generally make only one trip to the site.

Timothy Bigelow, chairman of Heyford Park Residents Association, said the building used in *World War Z* had now been demolished, so any filming would not impact on residents.

A spokesman for Dorchester Living said it couldn't comment on the application.

A decision will be made by Cherwell District Council at a later date.

LEFT: Flashback to 2011 when Brad Pitt was filming at Upper Heyford BELOW: Timothy Bigelow

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

You have plenty to keep you occupied and busy and yet you still seem to be intent on spreading gossip and making trouble for certain people close to you. Could jealousy be behind some of your words and actions? It would see so. Time for a peace talk and it must be done before Thursday if you're to find common ground. Ring now so I can show you a glimpse of tomorrow today.

☎ 0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

With the current line up, it is important that you keep a watchful eye on your close ones and that you do not spend too much time or energy on things that cannot benefit your long-term future. You've entered the world of the grown ups this week and you have important business you must take care of in a professional manner. Contracts and forms you sign bring success. Ring now for more insight.

☎ 0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

You've been so busy you've made yourself dizzy lately and it is only by making a game plan for yourself that you will complete all that is before you. Don't rule out joining forces with others and working as a team. I know your instincts last week were to fly solo, but with what's ahead of you in the coming days, you're going to need a wing-man. Ring now. I have insight to make you smile.

☎ 0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Use your ability to focus so well on things and practice what you all too often preach. Love links to cheeky offers from Aries and Virgos. You've been changing so much in recent months that I don't think you know who you are anymore. I know you are a sign of self respect, so make sure you keep it to the fore, especially on Thursday. Call now to hear what Venus and Mars are planning for you.

☎ 0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

You're getting bored with the same routine and your day to day duties just don't make you jump for joy anymore. Don't worry. The fun comes later this week, as you'll soon discover. The new you who has evolved can work hard and play hard and decisions you make will prove this fact by Friday. Call my starline now to hear which sign can fill in the blanks in all that gossip.

☎ 0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Family are going to need your love and support in the coming days and, even if you don't approve of what some of your family are deciding about their lives, you are going to have to respect their right to choose. News of a marriage or engagement helps you to accept that someone close to you has moved on. Give me a call to hear why this is a great month for job interviews and signings.

☎ 0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Don't believe all that fellow air signs, Geminis and Librans say at this time. They are likely to be trying to take advantage of you, in the nicest possible way of course. Those who know you also know your weaknesses, so play your cards closer to your chest until Friday gives you back your sense and clarity of mind. Ring now to hear what the stars plan romantically.

☎ 0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Life has been going through quite a learned phase for you and you've come out of the last six months events so much stronger and wiser than you ever were before. Don't give yourself a hard time for things you couldn't have known about financially. Lessons are sent for a reason and you're about to pass a test with flying colours. Phone now to hear who can't speak the truth this week.

☎ 0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

There was a time when you would have forgiven a close one and moved on. However, I can now see from your chart that you've had enough of lies and deceit and you want to take a stand. Speak but don't shout to gain respect and full understanding. Don't be dragged down to their level or you'll cast yourself in the same light. Ring now to hear how promotions soon beckon.

☎ 0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

A lack of confidence has made it really hard for you to know who is friend and who is foe. You've been worried about offending people when you should have been more concerned with them offending you. If you would stop talking so much and start listening, you'd find out just how many admirers you have. Call now to hear why I'm so sure Venus has your best interests at heart this week.

☎ 0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Go slow where your close ones are involved this week. I can see from the stars that they may want more than you are willing to give and a slow pace will serve you very well indeed. Flirtations you indulge in via work actually have the makings of something lasting, so take it slow and build a base rather than trying to run a race. Call now to hear why extra preparation in your work is so essential.

☎ 0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

An option that you did not want to take with your life is beginning to look better every day. You may want to tread carefully around the older generation who are going to be looking for someone to blame regarding a recent upset. Mars helps you to fix a financial quandary without facing blame. Ring now to hear why this is a great week for tracking down lost numbers and contacts.

☎ 0906 585 4371

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Cliff Richard in Brussels

In concert at the Palais 12 Indoor Arena

Departs 30 May 2014

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RoboCop returns with slick digital effects

ROBOCOP (12A, 118 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Thriller/Romance. Joel Kinnaman, Abbie Cornish, Michael Keaton, Gary Oldman, Jennifer Ehle, Jay Baruchel, Samuel L Jackson, Jean Paul Ruttan. Director: Jose Padilha.

Jose Padilha's glossy remake of Paul Verhoeven's 1987 sci-fi blockbuster looks and sounds like *RoboCop*.

The setting is still a dystopian, futuristic Detroit, home to conglomerate OmniCorp, which plans to revolutionise global law enforcement with its robot technology including hulking ED-209 drones.

The central character remains a murdered cop called Alex Murphy and elements of Basil Poledouris's original score, including the theme tune, have been incorporated by composer Pedro Bromfman.

So far, so familiar.

Padilha and screenwriter Joshua Zetumer embellish this framework with timely references to the War On Terror plus slick digital effects.

Back in the 1980s, lead actor Peter Weller lost three pounds in sweat each day encased in a heavy, cumbersome suit.

In the absence of digital trickery, he was a convincing hybrid of man and machine.

Statuesque Swedish-American hunk Joel Kinnaman, who headlines the revamp, also wears a suit but he is frequently lost amidst the pyrotechnics of computer-generated battle sequences that play like videogames.

Crucially, filmmakers have jettisoned the biting satire.

Verhoeven's film was punctuated with TV commercials, which pointed both barrels at the rampant consumerism of 1980s America, and pulled the trigger.

Here, excerpts from a TV show fronted by Pat Novak (Samuel L Jackson) bookmark the narrative but fail to draw blood. "Why are we so robo-phobic?!" bellows Novak, lambasting the law which prevents mechanised soldiers from patrolling the streets of 2028 America.

Raymond Sellars (Michael Keaton), scheming CEO of OmniCorp, realises that he needs to pluck consumers' heartstrings to sway political opinion.

"We've got to give Americans a product they can love," Sellars tells his head of legal affairs, Liz Kline (Jennifer Ehle), and head of marketing, Tom Pope (Jay Baruchel).

The golden goose is incorruptible cop Alex Murphy (Kinnaman), who is critically injured and can be rebuilt with OmniCorp technology pioneered by Dr Dennett Norton (Gary Oldman).

Alex's wife Clara (Abbie Cornish) signs the medical release form and her husband is reborn as the eponymous saviour.

RoboCop struggles to hardwire us into the humanity beneath Murphy's metallic shell.

Technological advances take us further away from the characters' emotions, even with a solid performance from Kinnaman.

He gels nicely with Cornish and Jean Paul Ruttan, who plays Murphy's young son, in early scenes.

Disappointingly, that relationship falls by the wayside in the second half as Dr Bennett bends to Sellars's Machiavellian will.

A scene from RoboCop, featuring Joel Kinnaman

Picture: PA Photo/Studio Canal

"Alex believes he's in control but he's not – it's the illusion of free will," he informs the conniving CEO.

Verhoeven's relentless blood-soaked vision earned an 18 certificate from UK censors.

By comparison, Padilha's re-imaging is 12A – the same as *The Dark Knight Rises* – and wanton carnage has been dialled down accordingly.

As Sellars and his marketing team would concur, mechanised killing machines have to be family-friendly nowadays.

CakeWhat's on

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:
Feb 14, Buddy Holly's Winter Dance Party. January 1959 saw Buddy Holly undertake his final tour. It was entitled 'The Winter Dance Party Tour' and featured Richie Valens (La Bamba, Donna), The Big Bopper (Chantilly Lace, White Lightning), Dion & The Belmonts (Runaround Sue, Teenager in Love) and of course Buddy Holly himself. We celebrate the music of these great artists in a spectacular show 8pm. £18.
Feb 15, *Theo The Mouse*. Theo the Mouse and his best friend Wendy are coming for an afternoon of pure family fun. £7, family ticket £23. 2pm.
Feb 15, Mark Thomas – *100 Acts of Minor Dissent*. 8pm. £16, concession £14.
Feb 18, *Kids Carpet Blast Off!*. The Noisy Animals are *the* biggest band in the world. They are about to blast off into outer space on a mission to find their brand new sound for their latest hit album. 11am and 2pm. £7, family £23.
Feb 19, *The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe*. 7.30pm. £14, concession £12.
Box office: *01295 279002*.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:
Feb 13, Cotswold Comedy Club present Chris McCausland. A mixed bill is headlined by the only professional comedian in the UK who is blind. It only serves to make his particular brand of observational comedy all the more unique £13. 7.45pm.
Feb 15, *Dotty The Dragon*. £8.50. 11.30am and 2.30pm.
Feb 16, *The Ultimate Louis Armstrong Show*. The Bateman brothers Jazz Band present a spectacular journey through the great man's music. £15, concession £13. 7.45pm.
Feb 19, *Anne Fine's Care of Henry*. Pied Piper presents. 11.30am. All tickets £8.50.
Box office: *01608 642350.*

Music

FRIDAY: General Foods S&S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Steve Ashall - bringing you covers old and new. Free admission. 9pm. *01295 252852.*

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: An Intimate Evening with Ruthie Henshall. A musical journey with her band through her career, from working with Lionel Bart to playing *Chicago* on Broadway. £20. 7.45pm. *01608 642350.*

SATURDAY: Lampit Arms, Tadmarton, Banbury: Kev G. With covers from past 60 years. Free admission. 9pm. *01295 780070.*

Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford: Grand Viennese Ball. Concert and dancing 8-11.15pm £45. Concert only £25. Optional dance lesson 12-2pm £5. Dress: white tie or period costume. *01865 980980.*

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LETS GO OUT Caring, honest and reliable Witney female, 36, enjoys keeping fit and nights out at the pub with friends, would like to meet a like-minded gent, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154933 or send a text to 80360**

TAKING THE TIME Unique, easygoing and fun-loving Trowbridge woman, 41, loves clubs, the seaside and a happy life in general, would like to meet a dark, decent man, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143389 or send a text to 80360**

STRIKE FAST Bubbly, blonde, blue-eyed Devizes woman, 43, 5'6'', enjoys listening to music, country walks and more, searching for a nice and genuine guy, to share caring times and the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155233 or send a text to 80360**

GENUINE PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360**

WALK IN THE PARK Sensitive, friendly and selfless Abingdon-On-Thames female, 46, searching for a spirited, warm male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159088 or send a text to 80360**

SPARKS FLYING Fun, curvy, green-eyed Wiltshire brunette, 46, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093 or send a text to 80360**

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360**

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 47, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129**

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 47, 5'3'', average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116**

DINE WITH ME Sincere, sociable Devizes lady, 48, non-smoker. I like country walks, pets, cosy evenings in, would like to meet a male who enjoys wining and dining for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162460 or send a text to 80360**

START AFRESH Friendly, kind-hearted, curvaceous Faringdon woman, 50, 5'7'', enjoys entertaining for family and friends, looking for a life-loving, honest male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147608**

ANYTHING GOES Pensive, straightforward and wise Swindon female, 50, seeking an inventive, laid-back male, for happiness, love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137863**

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I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE Sensitive, loving Abingdon female, 50, brunette hair, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, music, current afairs, seeking a similar male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141600**

ASK ME OUT! Caring, fit, 51 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'7'', slim build, blue eyes, brunette, GSOH, enjoys swimming & dog walking. WLTM a caring, loving male for hopefully a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164129 or send a text to 80360**

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Fun-loving, affectionate and interesting Swindon female, 51, searching for a fair, upbeat man, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101568**

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7'', grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Friendly, bubbly, caring female, 55, with a great sense of humour. Looking for a genuine, nice, romantic, caring guy, 55-58, with a GSOH, 6', medium build, for company, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156609 or send a text to 80360**

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I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360**

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 57, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895**

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 58, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360**

NEED THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL Intelligent, attractive, well dressed, 60, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active male, for friendship, possibly more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360**

LOOKING TO SETTLE DOWN Youthful, outgoing, honest Trowbridge woman, 61, 5'6'', slim build, brunette, glasses, N/S, enjoys darts, car boot sales, bingo, gardening and more, seeking that special man, to settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159284 or send a text to 80360**

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THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2'', curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360**

HAND IN HAND Widow lady, 61, works part-time, enjoys socialising, meeting new people, country walks, holidays, seeks placid gent to enjoy laughter and more. Witney **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100300**

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warminster female, 63, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544**

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Sociable, witty Oxford lady, 66, would like to meet that special man, for companionship, a lasting friendship and see where it leads to from there. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158099**

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 67, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158321 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Straight forward, kind and sincere Swindon woman, 67, N/S, likes music and current affairs, would like to meet a man, age 67-77, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155949 or send a text to 80360**

BE MY GOAL Lonely lady, 60, 5'7'', simply the best, kind, loving & caring, likes antiques, car boot sales & eating out, seeks male for friendship & relationship. Bicester. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 940563 or send a text to 80360**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046 or send a text to 80360**

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 75, 5'5'', loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415**

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 79, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388**

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837**

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360**

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 40, 5'10'', med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360**

A LUCKY STRIKE Rational, positive and expressive Didcot man, 46, would like to find a funny, helpful female, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161546**

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3'', looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080**

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HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427**

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 47, wants to meet a responsible, sincere woman, to build a loving relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382 or send a text to 80360**

DON'T BE SHY, GIVE ME A TRY! Charming, happy, Abingdon male, 47, 6', enjoys pubs, clubs and nights out, but just as happy with a walk in the countryside and a night in by the fire with the right person. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164128 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND ADVENTURE Professional, caring male, 47, 5'9'', N/S, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399**

YOUNG AT HEART? Genuine, honest, self-employed Oxford male, 47, 5'9'', own home and car, likes the seaside and country walks, would like to meet a youthful, slim lady, age 55-63, to share a happy future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157106 or send a text to 80360**

READY FOR A NEW START Down-to-earth, responsive and energetic Wantage guy, 49, just looking to meet a stable, consistent girl, 30-55, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162727 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 51, 5'7'', brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027**

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479**

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360**

EYE TO EYE Nice gent, 53, enjoys history, coastal walks, architecture, walking, cosy nights in, cooking, DIY, would like to meet a lady for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford man, 55, 5'8'', green eyes, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit, GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 57, GSOH, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360**

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6'', slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360**

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 60, 5'6'', slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 60, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981 or send a text to 80360**

SOUND LIKE YOUR MATCH? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 63, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314 or send a text to 80360**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812**

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PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9'', dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360**

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 61 Witney male. I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360**

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 62, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'6'', GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360**

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502**

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

FRIENDSHIPS WITH FEMALES Straight, kind Bicester woman, 69, retired and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group, for days out and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147186**

LUCKY CHARM Friendly, happy, 37 year old gay Irish man living in Oxford, likes Karate and Boxing, would like to meet an older man for fun times, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164169**

SHOW YOUR COLOURS Honest, old fashioned, non-scene Oxford male, 57, fit, clean living, not into pubs, clubs or crowds, seeking a mature male, for friendship, days out, holiday and fun times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 865303**

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 66, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

SOCIAL TIMES Caring, sociable 67 Abingdon-On-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar male to share good times, fun and friendship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 70, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

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CakeMotoring

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Nissan charges into the future

By David Duffy

DRIVING a Nissan Leaf inspires plenty of emotions, but underlying all of them runs a little undercurrent of fear.

The electrically-powered five-seater is a comfortable, capable and quiet runaround, but every second you are at the wheel you have one eye firmly on the 'fuel gauge'.

Fully charged, the first time I slipped into the welcomingly large leather seat of the top-spec model on a freezing evening, the high-tech display glowed a promise of 92 miles of zero-emission motoring.

But that is before you switch on the lights, the air conditioning to clear the misty screen, the heated rear screen, the heated driver's seat — and how posh is this — heated steering wheel.

Slip the tiny automatic gearshift into drive and the driving range had dropped to 75 miles — before a wheel had turned. Small wonder that 'range anxiety' is a major factor holding back a surge in electric car sales. Nissan says the new Leaf looks similar to its predecessor because existing customers wanted it that way, with the car achieving the highest customer satisfaction scores of any car it makes — as much as 93 per cent.

But out has gone the unpopular pale interior and in has come black, which includes leather on the top-spec model tested here making it feel like a properly luxurious car, with heated seats, even in the back, climate control and an extensive in-car electronic systems readout and satnav. The boot is now bigger and a suspension tune has done away with the soft, sometimes wobbly, performance of the previous model.

Travel in the new Leaf is a thoroughly relaxing experience, thanks to the quiet ride, and improved handling, but it is the concern about where you can find the next charging point that is forever at the back of your mind.

Efforts are being made to improve the charging infrastructure.

In addition, a little-publicised scheme subsidised by the Government's Office for Low-Emission Vehicles, allows anyone — whether you own an electric car or not — to have a car-charging point fitted at home free of charge.

I had one fitted through Pod Point (podpoint.com) who arranged for Oxford Solar PV, of Wheatley, to fit it, a task that took just a few hours.

If you need to charge an electric car at home it is vital to have your electrics checked, as the car draws a heavy current that can pose risks if the home wiring is not up to scratch.

No electric car on the market yet meets the so-called 'three-minute, three hundred' rule — matching the user-friendly benefits of petrol-powered cars that take just three minutes to fill a tank which then allows you to drive 300 miles. Until they do, driving an electric car is always going to be just a little scary.

BETTER HANDLING: The Leaf's ride is relaxed and quiet

Auto facts

Model: Nissan Leaf Tekna
Price: £25,490 including batteries, or £20,490 plus battery lease
Performance: 0-62mph in 11.5 seconds
Charge time: 80% in 30 mins
Insurance group: 22 (1-50)
Top speed: 87mph
Luggage capacity: 11.6 cu ft
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

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Wheelsanddeals

- **THE Audi Q7 already cuts an imposing figure, but new S line Style Edition and S line Sport Edition versions of the seven-seat, air-suspended luxury SUV ramp up its visual impact even further through a range of styling enhancements. The new S line Edition models are available priced from £52,975 on-the-road to £64,100.**
- THE Toyota RAV4 has been upgraded for 2014 and the popular 2.0 D-4D engine is now available with all-wheel-drive. Higher specification has been introduced for Icon and Invincible grades and new options include blind spot monitor with rear cross traffic alert, and an improved Toyota Touch 2 touchscreen.
- **DRAYSON Racing Technologies, of Kidlington, has enjoyed an successful start to 2014, having been honoured with awards recognising achievements in motorsport and the development of electric vehicle technology.**

Classiccarnews

Silverstone Classic attracts record turnout

A RECORD number of eager car clubs have already signed up to be part of this summer's award-winning Silverstone Classic (July 25-27).

No fewer than 84 clubs have already registered online thus taking advantage of a special two-for-one classic car display ticket offer as well as access for their members to in-field display parking at the world's biggest classic motor racing festival. This number far surpasses the 56 clubs that had registered by this time last year and already exceeds the total number of 77 that participated in 2013 — itself a record.

Among the newcomers are the Rover P6 Club, the Royal Air Force Mini Club and the Berkeley Enthusiast Club, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at the event.

These will line up alongside the more familiar massive gatherings of Aston Martins, Bentleys, Ferraris, Lamborghinis, MGs, Morgans, MX5s, Porsches and a fabulous kaleidoscope of others including the annual BMW Zedfest.

Moreover, the Silverstone Classic is now widely regarded as the perfect place for motor manufacturers and passionate owners to commemorate important milestones in motoring history, with record parades of E-type Jaguars, Ferrari F40s and Porsche 911s among recent highlights.

A special on-track cavalcade to mark 50 years of the iconic Ford Mustang has already been announced for July.

Event director Nick Widley said: "Last year we had more than 9000 classic cars on display at the Silverstone Classic and it seems certain that we will top that number this summer."

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault Clio core range are: Urban 40.4 (7.0)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7)–94.2 (3.0); Combined 51.4 (5.5)–88.3 (3.2). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 127–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

4+ Terms and exclusions apply. New 4+ package applicable to new retail cars. Warranty 4 years/100,000 miles and routine servicing 4 years/48,000 miles (whichever comes first); servicing package available to Renault Selections and lease finance customers only, alternatively can be purchased for just £299 (price shown valid when purchased by 31 July 2014). Visit renault.co.uk/4plus for full details. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. For finance, conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. *1 year's free insurance is available to Renault Finance customers in the UK (excluding Isle Man, Channel Islands and Northern Ireland) on any New Clio Dynamique MediaNav 1.2 16V 75. Visit renault.co.uk/insuranceoffer for full terms and conditions. †£1500 comprises £500 discount offer and £1000 deposit contribution offer. £500 discount offer is available to private and small business customers on new Renault Clio models and is paid directly to the customer by the dealer. Payment can also take the form of a contribution towards a cash purchase or finance. £1000 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio (excluding Clio Expression and Renaultsport). Visit www.renault.co.uk/offers for details. Rental stated is for Renault Lease. If you choose Renault Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: New Renault Clio Dynamique MediaNav 1.2 16V 75, advance rental £1700 inc VAT (after £1000 deposit contribution), followed by 48 monthly rentals of £159 inc VAT, final rental £4735 inc VAT. A finance facility fee of £149 is payable with the advance rental. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with other schemes or finance offers and are available on new cars shown when ordered by 24 March and registered by 31 March 2014. Please check with your participating dealers for details. Cars shown may have optional metallic paint, available at an additional £495 (or £595 for i.d. paint).

DACIA

Happy Birthday Dacia

As our gift to you, Dacia is offering the 2013 Dacia Duster range from **£199 deposit** and **£199 per month.**

AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST WHEN ORDERED BY 24 MARCH AND REGISTERED BY 31 MARCH

You do the maths

Duster shown is a 2013 Lauréate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,895.

DACIA GROUPE RENAULT

JAYBEE MOTORS
OXFORD ROAD, BODICOTE, BANBURY OX15 4AB
01295 227100 WWW.JAYBEE.CO.UK

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia Duster range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-49.6 (5.7); Extra Urban 40.3 (7)-61.4 (4.6); Combined 35.3 (8)-56.5 (5). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 185-130g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Rental stated is for Dacia Lease. If you choose Dacia Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: Dacia Duster Ambiance 2013 dCi 110 4x2, advance rental £199 inc VAT followed by 48 monthly rentals of £199 inc VAT, final rental £4,260 inc VAT. A finance facility fee of £99 is payable with the advance rental. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Ltd, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. Offers available to retail customers only on stated new Dacia vehicles when ordered by 24 March 2014 and registered by 31 March 2014. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Metallic paint available at an additional £495.